What is claimed is:

1. A photographic image selecting apparatus comprising:

a classifying means for classifying a plurality of photographic images into similar photographic image groups, comprising photographic images which are similar to each other, the similarities being determined by analyzing digital data representing the photographic images;

a qualified photographic image extracting means for extracting photographic images, that satisfy predetermined selection conditions as qualified photographic images, from each of the similar photographic image groups; and

a differentiating and processing means for differentiating the qualified photographic images from the other photographic images and administering processes thereon.

2. A photographic image selecting apparatus as defined in Claim 1, wherein:

the predetermined selection conditions include image quality levels.

3. A photographic image selecting apparatus as defined in Claim 1, wherein:

the qualified photographic image extracting means is equipped with a selection condition setting means; and

the selection condition setting means is capable of setting the selection conditions for each similar

photographic image group.

4. A photographic image selecting apparatus as defined in Claim 2, wherein:

the qualified photographic image extracting means is equipped with a selection condition setting means; and

the selection condition setting means is capable of setting the selection conditions for each similar photographic image group.

5. A photographic image selecting apparatus as defined in Claim 3, wherein:

the selection condition setting means sets the selection conditions so that at least one qualified photographic image is extracted from each of the similar photographic image groups.

6. A photographic image selecting apparatus as defined in Claim 4, wherein:

the selection condition setting means sets the selection conditions so that at least one qualified photographic image is extracted from each of the similar photographic image groups.

7. A photographic image selecting apparatus as defined in Claim 3, wherein:

the selection condition setting means sets the selection conditions to be stricter for similar photographic image groups having a greater number of photographic images included therein.

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8. A photographic image selecting apparatus as defined in Claim 4, wherein:

the selection condition setting means sets the selection conditions to be stricter for similar photographic image groups having a greater number of photographic images included therein.

9. A photographic image selecting apparatus as defined in Claim 3, wherein:

the selection condition setting means sets the selection conditions according to a specified number of qualified photographic images to be extracted from each of the similar photographic image groups.

10. A photographic image selecting apparatus as defined in Claim 4, wherein:

the selection condition setting means sets the selection conditions according to a specified number of qualified photographic images to be extracted from each of the similar photographic image groups.

11. A photographic image selecting apparatus as defined in Claim 1, wherein:

the differentiating and processing means performs processes wherein only the qualified photographic images are printed.

12. A photographic image selecting apparatus as defined in Claim 1, wherein:

the differentiating and processing means performs

processes wherein the qualified photographic images and the other photographic images are printed at different sizes.

13. A photographic image selecting apparatus as defined in Claim 1, wherein:

the differentiating and processing means performs processes wherein the qualified photographic images and the other photographic images are differentiated, then recorded in a recording medium.

14. A photographic image selecting apparatus as defined in Claim 1, wherein:

the differentiating and processing means performs processes wherein only the qualified photographic images are recorded in a recording medium.

15. A photographic image selecting apparatus as defined in Claim 1, wherein:

the differentiating and processing means is a display means; and

only the qualified photographic images are displayed thereby.

16. A photographic image selecting apparatus as defined in Claim 1, wherein:

the differentiating and processing means is a slideshow display means; and

the qualified photographic images and the other photographic images are displayed as slides for different display durations.

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17. A program that causes a computer to execute selection of photographic images, comprising:

a classifying procedure for classifying a plurality of photographic images into similar photographic image

5   groups, comprising photographic images which are similar to each other, the similarities being determined by analyzing digital data representing the photographic images;

a qualified photographic image extracting procedure

10   for extracting photographic images, that satisfy predetermined selection conditions as qualified photographic images, from each of the similar photographic image groups; and

a differentiating and processing procedure for

15   differentiating the qualified photographic images from the other photographic images and administering processes thereon.

18. A computer readable medium having recorded therein a program that causes a computer to execute

20   selection of photographic images, comprising:

a classifying procedure for classifying a plurality of photographic images into similar photographic image groups, comprising photographic images which are similar to each other, the similarities being determined by

25   analyzing digital data representing the photographic images;

a qualified photographic image extracting procedure for extracting photographic images, that satisfy predetermined selection conditions as qualified photographic images, from each of the similar photographic image groups; and

a differentiating and processing procedure for differentiating the qualified photographic images from the other photographic images and administering processes thereon.